

RURAL DISTRICT OF HEREFORD

ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR

1959

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER
OF HEALTH

RICHARD WOOD-POWER

B.A., F.R.C.S.(Ire), D.P.H.



which includes the

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

DONALD FODEN

M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H.



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HEREFORD RURAL DISTRICT

Medical Officer of Health :

R. Wood-Power, B.A., F.R.C.S. (Ire.), D.P.H.,
Public Health Department,
21, East Street,
Hereford.

19th May, 1960.

To the Chairman and Members of the Hereford Rural District Council.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to lay before you the Annual Report for the above District for the year 1959.

The birth-rate was 13.2 per 1,000, and the death-rate was 10.2 per 1,000 (and when adjusted by the comparability factors supplied by the Registrar General, were respectively 15.1 and 8.6 per 1,000), and the infant mortality rate 20.3 per 1,000 births.

The report of the Chief Public Health Inspector is appended hereto.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

R. WOOD-POWER.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

Clerk to the Council—

R. A. SYMONDS, M.A.(Cantab.) (Part-time).

Medical Officer of Health—

R. WOOD-POWER, B.A., M.B., B.Ch., F.R.C.S.(Ire.), D.P.H.
(Part-time).

Chief Public Health Inspector—

DONALD FODEN, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I., Cert.S.I.B.,
Cert. Insp. Meat and Other Foods.

Additional Public Health Inspector—

P. A. THOMAS, M.A.P.H.I., Cert.S.I.B.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area in acres	...	...	...	...	...	65,669
Population (Registrar-General's Estimate)	...	...	...	...	...	18,700
Structurally separate dwellings	...	...	...	...	...	4,378
Number of Parishes	...	...	...	...	...	39
Rateable value, 31st March, 1959	...	...	...	...	...	£153,210
A Penny Rate produces	...	...	...	...	...	£599
„ „ „ „ Housing (1919) Act	...	...	...	...	...	£649

Vital Statistics :—

Deaths	...	...	Total 190.	Male 94.	Female 96
Death Rate per 1,000 of estimated population (Crude)	...	...	10.2		
„ „ „ „ „ „ „ „	...	...	(Adjusted)	8.6	
Live Births—Legitimate	...	Total 229.	Male 121.	Female 108	
„ „ Illegitimate	...	„ 17.	„ 6.	„ 11	
Live Birth Rate per 1,000 of estimated population (Crude)	...	13.2			
„ „ „ „ „ „ „ „	...	(Adjusted)	15.1		
Illegitimate Live Births per cent of total live births	...	6.9			
Still Births	...	...	Total 7.	Male 5.	Female 2
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 Live and Still Births	...	...	27.7		
Live and Still Births	...	Total 253.	Male 132.	Female 121	
Infant Deaths	...	...	...	...	5
Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births—total	...	20.3			
„ „ „ „ „ „ „ „	...	legitimate	21.8		
„ „ „ „ „ „ „ „	...	illegitimate	0		
Neo Natal „ „ „ „ „ „ „ „	...	...	...	16.3	
Early Neo Natal Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births	...	12.2			
Postnatal Mortality Rate per 1,000 live and still births	...	31.6			
Maternal Deaths (including abortion)...	...	...	...	0	
Maternal Mortality Rate per 1,000 live and still births	...	0			

Physical Features and General Character

The Rural District of Hereford is situate in the middle of the county, and completely surrounds the city of Hereford. It is bounded on the north by the Leominster and Wigmore Rural District, on the north-east by the Bromyard Rural District, on the south by the Ross and Whitchurch Rural District, and on the west by the Dore and Bredwardine and Weobley Rural Districts. The middle of the district is low-lying.

In the north Dinmore Hill rises to a height of 747 ft., in the south Orcop Hill to 958 ft., and Aconbury Hill 905 ft., on the west Credenhill is 720 ft., while on the eastern side are Dinedor 595 ft., Backbury 738 ft., and Westhide 422 ft.

The district is well watered. The river Wye flows across from west to east in a very tortuous bed, and the rivers Lugg and Frome flow from north to south until they empty into the Wye. In the low-lying portions, following the courses of the rivers, is alluvial deposit.

Geologically the district is Old Red Sandstone. Credenhill, Dinedor, Dinmore and Callow hills are of Cornstone formation.

The subsoil is gravelly loam in those parishes through which the rivers flow, and in the remainder of the district for the most part marl or clay.

The population at the Census of 1951 showed an increase of 4,041 persons in the Rural District, and varied in the thirty-nine Parishes within the Area from 19 in Dinmore to 2,972 in Credenhill.

Legislation in Force

Bye-laws with respect to Hop and Fruit Pickers made 1909 were amended during 1937; Tents and Vans made 1912 were amended during 1955; New Buildings made 1918 were amended during 1954; and Food Bye-Laws were made in 1950. The Council has adopted Section 86 of the Public Health Acts Amendment Act 1907 requiring the registration of dealers in old metal and marine stores.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

Professional Nursing in the Home

There is an adequate number of District Nurses/Midwives in the Area to cover all Parishes.

Their services are provided by the County Council and the Nurses are under the supervision of the Superintendent Nursing Officer.

Laboratory Facilities

Bacteriological examinations are made by the Public Health Laboratory Service (directed by the Medical Research Council for the Ministry of Health) at the County Hospital, Hereford, where Dr. D. R. Christie is in charge.

The chemical analyses of water samples are carried out by Messrs. James and McKinley of Gloucester.

Hospitals

Hospital Services for the County of Hereford are under the Management of the Herefordshire Hospital Management Committee, who are responsible for the control of all Hospitals, to which patients can be admitted in case of need.

Ambulance Facilities

Motor Ambulances for sitting or stretcher cases operated by the Herefordshire Joint Ambulance Committee as agents for the local health authority are stationed at County Ambulance Headquarters, Canal Road, Hereford, and are available for the removal of any cases on Medical Authority, on application to the Ambulance Headquarters at the above address.

Trained attendants are on duty day and night to accompany the Ambulances.

Clinics and Treatment Centres

Tuberculosis	...	...	...	County Hospital.
Venereal Diseases	...	...	...	County Hospital.
Orthopaedic	...	..	...	County Hospital and B.R.C.S. Red Cross Hut, Blackfriars Street, Hereford.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Water Supplies

There are privately owned piped water supplies to houses in certain parishes in the area but shallow wells or springs provide supplies in many instances, although in recent years deep bores have been sunk in quite a number of cases. In the parishes of Aconbury, Little Birch, Much Birch and Little Dewchurch, many houses are particularly badly off for water, although a private piped supply at Little Birch has been extended with beneficial results.

A scheme for a supply of water to houses at Shucknall Hill, Weston Beggard was completed in 1938 and the Hereford City Supply is laid on to parts of various parishes which adjoin the City boundary.

The Ministry of Housing and Local Government decided that this Council should operate the Ex R.A.F. supply with pumping station at Eaton Bishop and this supply has been extended to the parishes of Eaton Bishop, Clehonger and Allensmore, and further extensions are proposed. The supply provided for the new Council Houses at Much Birch has been extended to Wormelow and to part of Much Dewchurch Parish, whilst at Little Dewchurch the supply for the Council Houses has been utilised to provide a supply to a limited number of private dwellings. There is a proposal to provide the Parish of Withington and parts of adjoining parishes with water from a deep bore hole, and for houses in the Parish of Fownhope to be supplied from two bore holes situate at Rudgend, in that parish.

Sewerage and Drainage

There is no general system of sewers in the area.

A scheme of Sewage Disposal for the Parish of Fownhope was prepared and is still under consideration.

The Council's Consulting Engineers have been instructed to prepare plans, etc., for the sewerage of Kings Acre Road, Breinton, and parts of the Parish of Holmer, where existing means of sewage disposal for individual houses are extremely bad and give rise to considerable nuisances.

The Council has decided that the possibility of a sewerage scheme for parts of the parishes of Clehonger and Allensmore should be investigated.

Swimming Baths and Pools

None in the district.

Eradication of Bed Bugs

No infestations were discovered.

National Assistance Acts, 1948 & 1951

No action was necessary during the year.

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

General.

No cases of Diphtheria, Typhoid or Para-typhoid Fevers, Meningococcal Infection, Acute Poliomyelitis, Acute Encephalitis or Erysipelas were notified during the year.

There were thirty-five cases of Scarlet Fever which occurred in various Parishes. Three cases were removed to the Isolation Hospital and the remainder isolated at home. No deaths occurred from this disease.

The number of cases of Whooping Cough was one less than the number notified during 1958, but cases of Measles increased considerably.

Food Poisoning Outbreaks

(a)	Total number of outbreaks	...	...	...	...	0
(b)	Number of cases	...	...	...	...	0
(c)	Number of deaths	...	...	...	...	0
(d)	Organisms or other agents responsible :	...	...	...	...	—
	Foods involved :—	...	...	...	...	—

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING 1959

DISEASE	Sex	All Ages	CASES NOTIFIED													Cases Admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
			Under 1 year	1-	2-	3-	4-	5-	10-	15-	20-	35-	45-	55-	65 over		
Scarlet Fever	M.	19	1	—	—	—	4	9	4	1	—	—	—	—	—	3	—
	F.	16	1	—	—	1	—	10	3	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas	F.	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—
Pyrexia ...																	
Pneumonia	M.	8	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	4	—	—	—	1	2	3	7
	F.	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	3	—	7
Measles ...	M.	125	2	11	9	14	12	69	3	4	1	—	—	—	—	1	—
	F.	111	6	9	12	10	15	52	6	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery ...	M.	11	1	—	—	1	—	5	1	1	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
	F.	12	—	—	—	—	—	5	1	—	4	1	1	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough ...	M.	5	1	—	—	2	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F.	7	1	—	—	—	—	5	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

TUBERCULOSIS

Nine cases, one death.

AGE— PERIODS	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	<i>Pulmonary</i>		<i>Non- Pulmonary</i>		<i>Pulmonary</i>		<i>Non- Pulmonary</i>	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
20	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
35	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
45	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
55	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 and upwards ...	3	—	—	1	1	—	—	—
TOTALS ...	6	1	1	1	1	—	—	—

On the 31st December, 1959, there were on the Register the following cases :

<i>Pulmonary</i>		<i>Non-Pulmonary</i>	
<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>
60	45	17	12

PUBLIC HEALTH (PREVENTION OF TUBERCULOSIS)
REGULATIONS, 1925

No action was necessary during the year.

CAUSES OF DEATH, 1959

	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory	1	—
2. Tuberculosis, other	—	—
3. Other infective and parasitic diseases ...	—	—
4. Malignant neoplasm, stomach	4	3
5. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	—	1
6. Malignant neoplasm, breast	—	3
7. Malignant neoplasm, uterus	—	2
8. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms ...	5	6
9. Leukaemia, aleukaemia	1	—
10. Diabetes	—	—
11. Vascular lesions of nervous system	10	15
12. Coronary disease, angina	16	8
13. Hypertension with heart disease	2	2
14. Other heart disease	19	23
15. Other circulatory disease	3	4
16. Influenza	10	2
17. Pneumonia	7	7
18. Bronchitis	1	3
19. Other diseases of respiratory system	—	—
20. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	—	—
21. Gastritis, enteritis, and diarrhoea	—	—
22. Nephritis and nephrosis	1	—
23. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	—	—
24. Hyperplasia of prostate	4	—
25. Congenital malformations	—	2
26. Other defined and ill-defined diseases ...	5	12
27. Motor vehicle accidents	3	—
28. All other accidents	—	2
29. Suicide	2	1
TOTAL ...	94	96

INFANT MORTALITY DURING 1959

There was one death from Asphyxiation (Age 7 weeks), one death from Meningitis (Age 1 week), one death from Prematurity and one from Cerebral Haemorrhage (age in each instance 2 days) and one death due to Congenital Malformation of Respiratory Passages (age 2 hours).

The following report has been given by the Chief Public Health Inspector, Mr. Donald Foden, on work carried out during the year ended 31st December, 1959.

REPORT OF THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

As required by the Public Health Officers' Regulations, 1959.

Inspections under :—							<i>Number</i>
Housing Acts & Regulations	...	...	...	...	...	...	1406
Housing—Tenancy Applications	...	...	...	...	...	...	15
Nuisances	...	...	...	...	...	...	353
Infectious Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	105
Water Supplies	...	...	...	...	...	...	705
Dairies & Milk Supplies	...	...	...	...	...	...	38
Food & Food Premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	312
Schools	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Hop Pickers' Quarters	...	...	...	...	...	...	40
Factories with Mechanical Power	...	...	...	...	...	...	36
Other Premises under Factories Acts	...	...	...	...	...	...	28
Work Places	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Petroleum Acts & Regulations	...	...	...	...	...	...	212
Damage by Pests Act	...	...	...	...	...	...	20
Temporary & Movable Dwellings	...	...	...	...	...	...	570
Refuse Collection and Disposal	...	...	...	...	...	...	310
Shops Act	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Scrap Metal Dealers	...	...	...	...	...	...	21
Out Workers	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Pet Animals Act	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Agriculture (Safety, Health and Welfare Provisions) Act	...	...	...	...	...	...	—

Housing

Attention has been directed to dealing with unfit houses, and action with regard thereto has been as follows :—

(a) UNFIT HOUSES MADE FIT.

1. After informal action...	...	...	...	...	185
2. After formal notice under :					
(i) Public Health Act, 1936	...	...	...	...	1
(ii) Housing Act, 1957	...	...	...	...	0
(b) UNFIT HOUSES DEMOLISHED	...	...	...	...	9
(c) UNFIT HOUSES CLOSED	...	...	...	...	18

Particulars of work carried out under the Rents Act, 1957 are set out hereunder :—

1.	Applications for Certificates of Disrepair received...	2
(a)	Certificates issued	1
(b)	Undertakings given by owners	0
2.	Number of certificates cancelled	2*

*Two cancellations relate to Certificates of Disrepair issued during 1958.

The number of applications for Improvement Grants under the relevant provisions of the House Purchase and Housing Act, 1959 were as follows —

	<i>Discretionary</i>	<i>Standard</i>
Number of applications received ...	58	13
(a) Applications granted ...	45	13
(b) „ rejected ...	0	0
(c) „ pending ...	13	0

The number of new houses erected during the year are set out below :—

Houses built privately	27
Houses built privately with State assistance	2
Houses built by Council with State assistance	32
Total ...	61

Houses owned by the Council now number 461, and are situate in the following parishes :—Birch, Much (40), Breinton (8), Burghill (20), Clehonger (22), Dewchurch, Much (12), Dormington (10), Eaton Bishop (30), Fownhope (40), Hampton Bishop (2), Haywood (6), Holme Lacy (18), Lugwardine (22), Marden (24), Mordiford (48), Pipe and Lyde (8), Preston Wynne (8), Stoke Edith (6), Stretton Sugwas (36), Sutton (14), Wellington (18), Weston Beggard (10) and Withington (30), together with 29 bungalows at Kingstone in the Dore and Bredwardine Rural District.

Nuisances.

One Statutory Notice was served during the year, requiring the abatement of a nuisance arising from disrepair of a house. All other nuisances were satisfactorily overcome by informal action.

Infectious Diseases.

Fifty-eight cases of infectious diseases, consisting of 35 cases of Scarlet Fever, and 23 cases of Dysentery were investigated.

Water Supplies.

Six samples have been submitted for Chemical Analysis and 148 samples for Bacteriological Examination, with the following results :—

				<i>Satisfactory</i>	<i>Unsatisfactory</i>
Chemical	...	...	...	0	6
Bacteriological	...	...	...	80	68

Dairies and Milk Supplies.

There are on the register 21 distributors of milk, of whom one is a distributor of T.T., Pasteurised and Sterilised milk, eighteen are distributors of both T.T. milk and Pasteurised milk, whilst one retails only T.T. milk and one retails only Pasteurised milk. In addition, so far as is known, there are 17 producers of milk, who are registered with the Ministry of Agriculture, who are also distributors in the area of milk for retail sale. Of this latter number seven are known to be retailing T.T. milk, and four purchase and retail Pasteurised milk and six retail both T.T. and Pasteurised milk.

Thirteen samples of T.T. and Pasteurised Milk were submitted for examination with the following results :—

Satisfactory	...	...	13
Unsatisfactory	...	...	0

As from the 1st October, 1956, the whole of the Hereford Rural District became part of a Specified Area, so that only T.T., Pasteurised, and Sterilised milk may be sold by retail therein.

Food and Food Premises.

The number of known food premises in the Area is as follows—

General Food Shops...	...	...	...	...	47
Butchers' Shops	...	...	...	...	3
Food Preparation Premises	...	...	...	...	4
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	2
Canteens	...	...	...	...	34
Licensed Premises	...	...	...	...	37
Catering Establishments	...	...	...	...	54

Forty-three premises are registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955 as follows :—

Storage and Sale of Ice Cream	...	...	...	41
Manufacture of Sausages	...	...	...	2

During the year inspections of food premises have continued not only to ascertain that hygienic practices were being maintained but also to ascertain that defects—of which the occupier had been previously informed—had been completed. Two hundred and forty-six inspections were carried out, of which sixty-six related to registered food premises.

Sixty-two samples of Ice Cream were submitted for examination and were reported upon as falling within the following Provisional Grades :—

Provisional Grade I	...	...	53
„ Grade II	...	...	9
„ Grade III	...	...	—
„ Grade IV	...	...	—

One knacker's yard is registered within the Area and one slaughterhouse is licensed and the following table sets out the carcasses inspected and condemned wholly or in part and these figures include 1 calf, and 5 sheep which were the subject of emergency slaughter at places elsewhere than at the licensed slaughterhouse.

Food and Food Premises (Continued).**CARCASES AND OFFAL INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED IN WHOLE OR IN PART**

	<i>Cattle Excluding Cows</i>	<i>Cows</i>	<i>Calves</i>	<i>Sheep and Lambs</i>	<i>Pigs</i>	<i>Horses</i>
Number killed (if known)	38	—	1	148	23	—
Number inspected	38	—	1	148	23	—
<i>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cystercerci</i> Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	1	—	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	13	—	—	16	5	—
Percentage of number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis and Cystercerci	34.2%	—	100%	10.8%	21.7%	—
<i>Tuberculosis only</i> Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—
Percentage of number in- spected affected with Tubercu- losis	—	—	—	—	—	—
<i>Cysticercosis</i> Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcasses submitted to treat- ment by refrigeration	—	—	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—

In addition 11 lbs. of Tinned Peaches were found to be unfit for human consumption, and were destroyed after condemnation.

All condemned food was disposed of by incineration,

Factories

There are 57 factories within the district, all with mechanical power.

1. Inspections :

Premises	<i>Number of</i>		
	<i>Inspections</i>	<i>Written Notices</i>	<i>Occupiers Prosecuted</i>
Factories with mechanical power ...	36	4	—
Factories without mechanical power	—	—	—
Other premises under the Act (including works of building and engineering construction, but not including outworkers' premises)	28	1	—
TOTALS	64	5	—

2. Defects found :

<i>Particulars</i>	<i>Number of Defects</i>			<i>Number of defects in respect of which prosecutions were instituted</i>
	<i>Found</i>	<i>Remedied</i>	<i>Referred to H.M. Inspector</i>	
Want of Cleanliness ...	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences:				
(a) Insufficient ...	8	8	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective ...	10	10	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes ...	1	1	—	—
Other Offences ...	2	—	2	—
TOTAL ...	21	19	2	—

3. Outwork—Nil.

Hop Pickers.

The By-laws in connection with accommodation for persons engaged in the gathering of Hops, Fruit and Vegetables made in 1909 were rescinded, and new By-laws made by the Council and confirmed by the Minister of Health came into operation on the 20th August, 1937.

About 125 pickers came from outside Herefordshire, chiefly South Wales and the Midlands, to 6 farms. Barns, stables and other outbuildings are utilised for their accommodation although in the majority of cases specially erected buildings are provided.

The number of pickers decreased still further during 1959 as still more farms installed mechanical picking machines.

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act.

One Inspector/Operator is employed, but his services are shared jointly with the Ross and Whitchurch R.D. and the Ledbury R.D. The table set out hereunder records his work in this area during 1959 : —

	Premises In- spected	No. of In- spec- tions	Total Infes- tations	RATS		Writ- ten In- formal Notices	Statu- tory Notices
				Major	Minor		
Local Authority's Properties ...	3	19	8	3	5	—	—
Dwelling Houses ...	100	148	56	1	55	—	—
Business Premises ...	15	22	7	—	7	—	—
Agricultural Properties ...	84	124	60	1	59	—	—
TOTALS ...	202	313	131	5	126	—	—

As from the 1st October, 1958 the three Councils concerned decided to carry out a disinfestation service and two operators are employed.

Contracts held in the three areas at the 31st December, 1959 amounted to £2,088, and the number of treatments carried out during the year in this area was 290.

Temporary and Moveable Dwellings.

Following a survey of all known temporary and moveable dwellings and the completion of all pre-licensing requirements licences have been issued as follows :—

Multiple Sites	...	...	...	5
Individual Sites	...	...	...	30

In addition, there are 22 moveable dwellings in respect of which licences are not required under the provision of Section 269(5) Public Health Act, 1936 but which are, nevertheless, subject to the provisions of the Council's Byelaws and 64 caravans are known to be stored at various premises but are unoccupied.

There are still certain multiple sites which are unsatisfactory and these are being dealt with in conjunction with the County Planning Authority.

Refuse Collection.

One freighter, one loader-driver and two loaders are employed and collections are carried out once in every three weeks with the exception of two parishes near Hereford City, where collections are effected once in every ten days.

During 1959, 512 loads of refuse—approximately the equivalent of 5,950 cubic yards—were collected and hauled to the three disused quarries used for disposal. A total of 12,494 miles was involved.

Old Metal and Marine Store Dealers.

Twenty-two persons are now registered under the provisions of the Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907, as dealers in old metal, and close liaison in dealing with these persons and their premises is maintained with C.I.D. Officers of the Central Division of the Herefordshire Constabulary.

Petroleum Acts.

The number of petroleum installations licensed by the Council is eighty-nine.

During the year supervisory work together with the appropriate air pressure tests on tanks and pipelines was carried out at six new installations and the storage tanks at four existing installations were ullage tested.

Provision of Means of Escape in Case of Fire.

There are twenty premises consisting of 10 Flats, 2 Hospitals, 2 Schools, 4 Hotels, 1 Convent, and 1 Home for Elderly Persons, to which Section 60 of the Public Health Act, 1936 applies, and where the provision of adequate means of escape in case of fire must be provided and maintained.

These premises are visited regularly and the assistance of the Fire Prevention Officer with the consent of the Chief Fire Officer for the County, in this matter must be appreciated and acknowledged.

DONALD FODEN, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I., Cert.S.I.B.,
Cert. Insp. Meat and Other Foods,
Chief Public Health Inspector.

Public Health Department,
21, East Street, Hereford.

25th February, 1960.

Tel. : 2200 Ex. 5.

